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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY USSR

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

SUBJECT Milk-Processing Industry as Described in Soviet
Dairy Industry Journal

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1. The Soviet journal Molotchnaya Promyshlennost (Dairy Industry) is a semi-technical monthly magazine devoted primarily to the milk processing aspects of dairy industry, rather than to milk production or animal husbandry. Its purpose is to increase the quantity and quality of products derived from milk. Since demand for such products far exceeds production in the USSR, the major emphasis is upon quantity. There are no surpluses to worry about in the USSR. Most of the articles are devoted to techniques to improve the efficiency of production. Suggestions from workers for time-saving improvements are constantly encouraged, and workers who consistently produce above normal receive public recognition in the pages of the journal.
2. The journal is primarily for home consumption and indulges in considerable self-criticism. There is no apparent attempt to deceive, so it probably reflects a true picture of the dairy industry in the USSR. The articles, being semi-popular, never cite any literature. No reference is ever made to foreign research. Whenever credit is given, it is always to a Soviet scientist or worker.
3. Since the death of Stalin, the journal has improved somewhat. There is more freedom of discussion and the articles are more objective. It is a relief no longer to have to read in every issue that Joseph Stalin was the greatest butter and cheese expert of all time. No such claim is being made for Malenkov. Since the issue eulogizing Stalin at the time of his death, Stalin's name has not appeared in the periodical.
4. New techniques are adopted in the plants as rapidly as they are publicized. They are described in the journal, a directive is issued and then all plants must use them. There is an inspection service to enforce compliance, and every plant is rated annually on cost efficiency, quantity of production, and quality of product. There is some trouble with certain plants which falsify reports, and these transgressions are not hidden from the readers of the journal.
5. In general, the dairy industry of the USSR appears to be about 15-20 years behind the US, especially in its engineering plant. In theoretical work, however, it is catching up rapidly. Some very good scientists are employed in the industry, and great emphasis is placed on the development of technical personnel. Therefore the USSR has the potential for catching up very quickly, at least in the theoretical and technical field.

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Already the USSR is ahead of the US in the employment of technical personnel in the milk processing plants. In the US the practice is to employ trained technicians at the supervisory level and recruit unskilled labor from the labor market. In the USSR, however, all employees have received special technical training before they enter the plants. On the evidence at hand, it is impossible to comment on the comparative intelligence of the workers, but it is obvious that the USSR employs a higher percentage of specialized personnel. The USSR also makes far greater use of women at all levels in the industry. The processing plants would not suffer at all by the withdrawal of men in mobilization.

6. So far there has been nothing new in Soviet research in the field of milk processing. The journal makes practical application of existing knowledge, based upon either rediscovered techniques or foreign techniques employed without credit. The Soviets are making rapid progress, but they have been so far behind that we cannot expect any really new ideas until they catch up. At that time they will certainly have the scientific and technical potential to make significant contributions.
7. There is much stress on sanitation in the training programs. According to the journal, the milkers are all women, who dress in white, wash their hands before and after touching a cow, and sterilize all equipment. Constant training goes on within the processing plants, and regional meetings of responsible workers from various plants are held for the exchange of information on methods.
8. According to the journal, production and quality are gaining year by year, but the appeal in every issue is for still higher production and better quality. Milk and its derivatives are still luxury items in the USSR and the real struggle is for quantity rather than quality.

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